



More than 100 LANL Scholars receive \$741,100 in scholarships

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Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Foundation, in partnership with the Los Alamos Employees' Scholarship Fund (LAESF), has awarded \$741,000 to support the educational goals of 110 Northern New Mexico students.

Three graduating seniors, Kyran Romero, Santa Fe Indian School, Monica Chavez, New Mexico School for the Deaf, and Lillian Peterson, Los Alamos High School were awarded the top-level \$20,000 Gold Scholarship.

"All the recipients have worked incredibly hard to position themselves to be ready for a four-year college. They've done their part. And for many of them, financial support is the piece that is missing in order to make their dream possible. We're able to provide that," said Mike Ammerman, scholarship program manager at the LANL Foundation.

Plans for the future

Romero intends to pursue a degree in physics, computer science or engineering. He is deeply committed to serving his Jemez Pueblo community and feels that his mission in life is to not only provide for himself and his family, but to make sure that every member of his community has the opportunity to explore and pursue their passion. Romero believes his Native culture provides him with a unique and valuable perspective on many STEM fields and looks forward to further exploring the connection between science and Native cultural knowledge.

Chavez has been accepted to the Rochester Institute of Technology, where she plans to channel her love of math into becoming an engineer. Chavez is a first-generation college student from Sandoval County who has overcome many challenges to reach her goals.

Peterson, who has been accepted to Harvard, is deeply committed to protecting the environment and solving global issues stemming from climate change. She has published independent research in multiple peer-reviewed journals, including research that predicts crop yields in every country in Africa to help countries prevent hunger and malnourishment by predicting and preparing for food shortages.

First-generation college students

More than 40 percent of the recipients reported family income of less than \$50,000, while 8 of the top ten scholars receiving a gold, silver or copper scholarship are first-generation college students.

Laboratory fundraising efforts for the awards among employees are led by the Lab's Community Partnerships Office, and Laboratory operator Triad also invests in the scholarships, which support graduating high school seniors and current undergraduate students pursuing a four-year degree in any field of study.

All winners are from the seven Northern New Mexico counties surrounding Los Alamos National Laboratory—Los Alamos, Mora, Rio Arriba, San Miguel, Sandoval, Santa Fe and Taos, and have met rigorous academic and merit-based requirements. Academic achievement, leadership, service, financial need and overcoming life challenges are all taken into consideration. Certain award levels are determined by additional qualifications, including the pursuit of degrees in specific fields of study, first-generation college students, Native American students, and higher financial need.

The scholarship program and funds are managed and administered by the nonprofit LANL Foundation which is independent of the Laboratory. Award selections, student outreach and programmatic support are provided by an advisory committee of volunteer donors.

Since 1999, Northern New Mexico students have been awarded 1,915 scholarships totaling more than \$8.5 million from LAESF, over \$5 million of which came directly from Lab employees.

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